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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Subcommittee

CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Secretary-General

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GREECE

[Original: English]

[15 February 1991]

Greece has signed and ratified the following treaties, conventions and international agreements concerning the peaceful uses of outer space:

1. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, signed on 5 August 1963. This Treaty has been ratified by Law 4335/1963, published in the Official Gazette of 4 October 1963 (issue A');

2. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, signed on 27 January 1967. This Treaty has been ratified by Decree 670/1970, published in the Official Gazette of 3 December 1970 (No. 208, issue A');

3. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, signed on 22 April 1968. This Agreement has been ratified by Decree 189/1974, published in the Official Gazette of 20 November 1974 (No. 350, issue A');

4. Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, signed on 29 March 1972. This Convention has been ratified by Law 563/1977, published in the Official Gazette of 12 March 1977 (No. 75, issue A').

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[13 March 1991]

Ever since the necessity of regulating the activities of the first space States was initially discussed at the United Nations, and ever since countries expressed their concern that the use of space must be for solely peaceful purposes, the Government of Mexico has supported the proposals submitted in that regard.

Likewise, once the General Assembly of the United Nations had included in its agenda at its thirteenth session, in 1958, the item relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, Mexico realized, like other nations, that the work would be difficult since international law was entering a sphere in which no legislation had been envisaged. In addition there would be the task of reconciling the positions of the two super-Powers and their contrasting ideas arising out of the cold war.

By virtue of General Assembly resolution 1348 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, Mexico became a member in 1958 of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which later became the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, established with more specific functions and on a permanent basis.

Thus in the Committee Mexico participated actively in the consideration of the items that were being discussed, and in conjunction with its two subcommittees, supported the work leading to the elaboration of the five international legal instruments the international community currently possesses, whose purpose is to regulate the activities of States in the utilization of outer space.

In this context, the Government of Mexico has assigned great importance to the development of space law, since through the application of its provisions there is a possibility of establishing better conditions for the utilization of space that will benefit all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic, scientific and space development.

In keeping with the foregoing position, the Government of Mexico has ratified the following international legal instruments, which are closely related to the legal aspects of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries:

(1) Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, 1967;

(2) Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 1968;

(3) Agreement on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, 1972;

(4) Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 1975.

Mexico has also signed the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 1979, which has been submitted to the Senate of the Republic for ratification.

In addition, Mexico is a party to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, which, although outside the scope of the Committee's work, has regulated the military activities of States by preventing them from carrying out nuclear tests in outer space.

Mexico believes that the consideration of this item should take into account the strengthening of the principle of international cooperation with a view to enabling all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic and scientific development, to have access to the benefits of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. To achieve that goal, there must be political will on the part of all countries, especially those with the most highly developed space capabilities.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[13 March 1991]

The Ukrainian SSR is a party to the following international agreements concerning the peaceful uses of outer space:

1. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 1967;

2. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 1968;

3. Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, 1972;

4. Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 1975.

In addition, the Ukrainian SSR is a party to a number of international treaties which directly or indirectly reflect the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries. These treaties are as follows:

1. International Telecommunication Convention, 1982;

2. Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), 1976;

3. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, 1986;

4. Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, 1986.